



# Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program

## INDUSTRY ADOPTS STRATEGIC PROGRAM TO PROTECT COMMERCIAL CITRUS

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At the December meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC), members of the body adopted a plan that establishes an aggressive buffer detection and treatment program around the endemic Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) population in the greater Los Angeles Metropolitan area. The goals of this plan are to (1) prevent natural HLB spread from northern Mexico via ACP, (2) prevent ACP spread eastward through Palm Springs to Coachella Valley, (3) prevent ACP spread westward from Los Angeles into Ventura, and (4) prevent ACP spread southward to Temecula/northern San Diego.

The newly adopted buffer program requires a more intensive survey effort and increased sampling for huanglongbing (HLB). Treatments will be targeted to the buffer zones as the ACP attempts to migrate into those areas. Simultaneously, the industry in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the University of California, Riverside (UCR) has begun a research biocontrol program in Los Angeles with a promising strain of *Tamarixia radiata* discovered in the Punjab region of Pakistan. Within the endemic area of Los Angeles, CDFA will enhance the sampling program for HLB, and both CDFA and UCR will monitor the progress of the biocontrol research program.

CPDPC Chairman Nick Hill notes; "there is no one size fits all approach to battling the spread of ACP and preventing the introduction of HLB in our state. ACP treatment programs will continue in the counties of Imperial, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, Riverside and Ventura. Furthermore the Western San Fernando Valley area will also be subject to treatment and eradication efforts as ACP are discovered."

Communication efforts within the Los Angeles area are being modified including expanding efforts at retail sales of consumer products. "The collective message to home owners in the Los Angeles area is that you too can help protect backyard citrus with proper utilization of chemicals available at your local garden center," Hill continues. Photos of ACP, print messages and in-store promotional material will be used.

Quarantines remain in effect in all counties where ACP has been discovered - thus mitigation steps are being employed continuously in these areas by producers and county officials in partnership with state and federal entities. "This is a massive battle on several fronts," Hill concludes; with nothing less than our \$2 billion industry future at stake and jobs for 12,000 employees hanging in the balance. It's a battle we can't afford to be cheap on and one we can't afford to lose."

Buffer zone boundaries and additional information regarding the entire effort can be found on several websites including: [www.SaveOurCitrus.org](http://www.SaveOurCitrus.org) (USDA); <http://www.cdca.ca.gov/plant/acp/> (CDFA); [www.californiacitrusthreat.org](http://www.californiacitrusthreat.org) (CPDPC); and [www.citrusresearch.org](http://www.citrusresearch.org) (Citrus Research Board).